

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Erasmus+ program provides support for the European plan for modernization and internationalization in the field of higher education, which is also what BLC strives for. Applying for ECHE, BLC confirms that the decision to participate in the Erasmus+ program is part of its own modernization and internationalization strategy. This strategy emphasizes the importance of student and staff mobility and education in international collaborative projects to improve the quality of higher education programs and the student experience.

Participation in Erasmus+ Programme, international mobility of students and staff and cooperation as a priority for modernization and our presence on the international educational arena is the long-term strategy of our institution treats.

BLC submitted a request to the European Commission for the first time, wanting to actively participate in the development of European education. Obtaining the Erasmus University Charter for 2021-2027 would allow our higher education institution to participate in the Erasmus program with pride and satisfaction. BLC is vocal about benefits of internationalization and what it represents for the development of our HEI. New principles of Erasmus+ Programme for the period 2021-2027 introduce a set of new regulations which should be implemented.

BLC's main priorities are: implementing of digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European promotion of environmentally friendly practices according to the „no paper waste” trend, as well as actions for promotion the civic engagement and active citizenship among program participants. Other goals that are valid and relevant are: to provide high quality educational services according to European teaching requirements, to increase students', academic teachers' and administrative staff's mobility, to increase quality and quantity of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to increase qualifications and visibility obtained in other universities, adapting new, innovative elements to study programmes, cooperation with local and foreign enterprises to provide practice placements for students, to develop innovations, internationalization in educational sector and exchange of experience in many aspects of lifelong education to facilitate students and staff adaptation to European environment and multicultural society. International cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices, strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances are also within our interests.

BLC emphasizes very important role of English language, as a main way of communication in the global world. Throughout many supplementary forms of education academic teachers and administrative staff are raising their qualifications in language courses within our organization.

Student placement is an integral part of study programmes an BLC. Placement arrangements, evaluation and monitoring will be implemented by BLC in cooperation with partner institutions. The recruitment procedure is based on the following criteria: students' language competence, academic achievements, involvement in student associations and academic community life.

BLC Coordinators assist students in choosing appropriate host organizations and calculate the duration of stay based on the student's academic obligations. Coordinators ensure that the programme of a practical training is adequate to the study programme of each student. The practical training activity is shown in Diploma Supplement, which benefits students in their career-hunting process in terms of international experience.

Up until now we have established bilateral agreements with many foreign partners institutions. International cooperation is very important part of BLC strategy. Quality and high level of mobility is also very significant goal. Financial support from European funds will help to organize mobility. To comply with basic Erasmus rules, university pays attention to the non-discrimination rules; any signs of racism, xenophobia, prejudice because of gender, nationality, disability or religion will be treated as the violation of human rights. To achieve social and economic cohesion of EU, BLC will take all possible measures to develop cooperation with industry, business, labour market, community and local and regional authorities.

The most important target groups are students (study and practice placements mobility) and staff (teaching and training mobility). ECTS system is implemented in all fields of study as the main device to facilitate international exchange. Course catalogs and learning outcomes descriptions are updated and posted on the website. Full mobility recognition is provided for satisfactory completed Erasmus outgoing students exchange. The BLC ensures full recognition and credit for all positively assessed subjects that the student attended during the study period abroad. Information on participation in mobility will be also contained in the supplement to the diploma of graduation. BLC provides support in the process of preparation and organization of every student and staff mobility. Equal treatment is provided for all participants of mobility. Integration is very important element of Erasmus mobility.

Also the offer of cooperation for incoming students, lecturers and administrative employees of partner universities is open and constantly expanded. No fees for tuition will be charged from incoming Erasmus students. The university provides students with no other fees for registration or exam, use of laboratories, sports facilities and libraries.

In order to ensure adequate visibility of the Erasmus University Charter, the Erasmus Policy Statement and the Erasmus program, advertising and information for the academic and local community, companies and other institutions will be widely disseminated on the university website. The university ensures the promotion of the program in social media and the participation of local ambassadors, i.e. students and employees who have completed the mobility, in meetings with potential candidates for mobility, as well as including incoming students and staff from partner universities in activities to promote the Program.

Taking under consideration our geographical position, we focus on closer cooperation with neighbouring countries in Europe and also with participating and non-participating countries. We plan to follow cooperation projects for innovation and good practice, which are element of institutional internationalization and modernization strategy; enterprises, staff mobility, knowledge alliance between HEI and business.

Due to participation in Erasmus+ Programme there will be stronger connection between education, research, business, which is very important for creation new fields of studies and development of our institution; there will be higher number of population with higher education diploma. Improving the quality of education by adapting to the curricula new requirements of changing economy, business,

labour market and information collected by Career Office BLC. Strengthening education quality through mobility and international cooperation; mobility helps students and staff increase their professional skills, get new experience, obtain wide social skills and be able to function in multicultural societies.

Every society needs knowledge, exchange of experience and cooperation so that it can develop. The highest quality of education and continuous development of the academic's community are a response to the needs of the modern economy and society, in particular by respecting the needs of the entire Western Balkan region.

BLC will popularize European Card of Higher Education, the Erasmus Policy Statement and the Erasmus+ Programme activities during promotional activities and events e.g.: Open Days, Erasmus+ Programme Days, The European Funds Open Days, International Staff Week, Children's Academy, periodic information meetings, which are focused on advocating the advantages of the Programme as a European-funded project. Issuing Study Guides, Erasmus information packages, and marketing gadgets with Erasmus+ logotypes allow for a broader visibility of the actions. The main idea for popularization of the Programme is showcasing its benefits, which is possible by organizing guest lectures with former beneficiaries of student and staff mobilities so that they can connect with uncertain students and answer their doubts. Modern marketing is effective on social networking sites which is why the BLC is active on such platforms as: Facebook, Instagram, but also on the BLC website (www.blc.edu.ba)